

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 AID-05 TRSE-00 DHA-02
OMB-01 CU-02 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /122 W
-----260350Z 113677 /14

R 252017Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3295
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1231

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, WA
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH UN COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA

REF: STATE 88524

1. POLITICAL COUNSELLOR AND MISOFF CALLED ON COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI APRIL 22 TO CONFIRM NEW YORK POINT OF CONTACT AND DISCUSS NAMIBIAN SITUATION (REFTEL). WE BRIEFED AHTISAARI IN GENERAL TERMS ON PLANS FOR FIVE POWER DISCUSSIONS WITH SAG IN CAPETOWN COMMENCING APRIL 27.

2. AHTISAARI REFERRED TO RECENT PRESS REPORTS SAYING THAT THE WESTERN FIVE MIGHT CONSIDER DISCUSSING THE NAMIBIAN SETTLEMENT
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IN TERMS OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE. HE WARNED THAT THE FIVE MUST FIND WAYS TO OFFSET THE SUSPICIONS INEVITABLY AROUSED IN FRONTLINE STATES AND SWAPO BY SUCH STORIES. POLCOUNS ASSURED AHTISAARI THAT THE WEST HAD NO INTENTION OF DEALING WITH TURNHALLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE WILL SEE MANY SUCH ERRONEOUS STORIES CIRCULATING IN THE PRESS IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS, AND THOSE INTERESTED IN A SOLUTION

SHOULD NOT REACT ON THE BASIS OF PRESS SPECULATION.

3. AHTISAARI MENTIONED, AS HE HAD IN WASHINGTON EARLIER (REFTEL), THAT HE HAD BEEN SURPRISED TO FIND THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO UN STUDIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RES 385. HE SAID THAT HE WAS INSTIGATING SUCH A STUDY BY THE SECRETARIAT, BUT THAT THERE WAS A WOEFUL LACK OF DATA ON SUCH BASIC MATTERS AS THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE SAG ADMINISTRATION IN NAMIBIA. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY INFORMATION THE USG COULD PROVIDE ON THE SAG POLITICAL, MILITARY, AND SECURITY APPARATUS IN NAMIBIA. POLCOUNS SAID THAT HE WOULD CONVEY THIS REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

4. AHTISAARI SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO SYSTEMATIC CONSIDERATION AS YET OF THE PRECISE UN ROLE IN A SOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SC RES 385. HE ASSUMED THAT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WOULD BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, AND THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA WOULD HAVE TO BE GRANTED AN ACTIVE PART IN THE PROCESS UNDER THE SYG'S AEGIS. HE OBSERVED THAT UN SUPERVISION OF PAST ELECTIONS TENDED TO PRESENT PROBLEMS UNIQUE TO EACH CASE, THOUGH THE EXPERIENCE IN WEST IRIAN APPEARED TO HIM TO OFFER SOME INSTRUCTIVE BACKGROUND.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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